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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/783,760

02/20/2004

Yulun Wang

157438-0006

7411

1622 7590 05/14/2008

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EXAMINER

KISWANTO, NICHOLAS

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3664

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/14/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/783,760	Applicant(s) WANG ET AL.	
	Examiner NICHOLAS KISWANTO	Art Unit 3664	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 February 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-66 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-66 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 11, 21, 31, 41, 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aras et al. (5,867,653), in view of Jouppi et al. (6,292,713).

As to claims 1, 11, 21, 31, 41, 51, and 61 – 66, Aras/653 shows a camera and monitor system (col 1, line 23 – 27), a first remote station 207a, a second remote station 207b that can access the camera and monitor system independently of first remote station (col 5, line 18 – 23), an arbitrator 205 that can control access to the camera and monitor system (col 2, line 16 – 18), and a broadband network (col 2, line 8 – 10). However, Aras/653 does not show a robot.

Jouppi/713 teaches a video conferencing system that has a mobile robot with a camera and monitor (abstract, Figure 2). Jouppi/713 teaches that such a system improves eye contact (col 1, line 55).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Jouppi/713's teaching to Aras/653's invention in order to improve eye contact, as taught by Jouppi/713.

As to claims 9, 19, 29, 39, 49, and 59, Aras/653 further shows wherein said first remote station transmits a communication for said mobile robot that is initially transmitted to said second remote station (col 5, line 27 - 32).

As to claim 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, and 60, Aras/653 further shows wherein said first remote station sends a communication for said mobile robot that is initially transmitted to said mobile robot (col 5, line 27 - 32).

3. Claims 2-6, 8-10, 12-16, 18-20, 22-26, 28-30, 32-36, 38-40, 42-46, 48-50, 52-56, 58-66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aras/653, in view of Jouppi, further in view of Ben-Shachar et al. (2001/0010053).

As to claim 2, Aras/653 and Jouppi/713 disclose the claimed invention as described above. However, they are silent as to the specifics of a notification mechanism in the arbitrator.

Ben-Shachar/053 shows the commonly well-known teaching of a notification mechanism within a device with multiple controllers [0107].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Aras/653's invention with a notification mechanism as taught by Ben-Shachar/053 since a controller must have a way to know when it has been given priority.

As to claim 3, Aras/653 and Jouppi/713 disclose the claimed invention as described above. However, they are silent as to the specifics of a timeout mechanism in the arbitrator.

Ben-Shachar/053 further shows the commonly well-known teaching of a timeout mechanism within a device with multiple controllers [0156].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Aras/653's invention with a timeout mechanism as taught by Ben-Shachar/053 since a controller must have a way to relinquish control in the event a malfunction renders it unresponsive.

As to claim 4, Aras/653 and Jouppi/713 disclose the claimed invention as described above. However, they are silent as to the specifics of a queue mechanism in the arbitrator.

Ben-Shachar/053 further shows the commonly well-known teaching of a queue mechanism within a device with multiple controllers [0145].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Aras/653's invention with a queue mechanism as taught by Ben-Shachar/053

since a controller must have a way to reserve its request in case another controller currently has control.

As to claim 5, Aras/653 and Jouppi/713 disclose the claimed invention as described above. However, they are silent as to the specifics of a call back mechanism in the arbitrator.

Ben-Shachar/053 further shows the commonly well-known teaching of a call back mechanism within a device with multiple controllers [0107].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Aras/653's invention with a call back mechanism as taught by Ben-Shachar/053 since a controller must have a way to know when it can take control.

As to claim 6, Aras/653 and Jouppi/713 disclose the claimed invention as described above. However, they are silent as to the specifics of a priority mechanism in the arbitrator.

Ben-Shachar/053 further shows the commonly well-known teaching of a priority mechanism within a device with multiple controllers [0054].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Aras/653's invention with a priority mechanism as taught by Ben-Shachar/053 since the system needs a way to know which controller obtains control in case more than one controller requests control simultaneously.

As to claim 8, Aras/653 and Jouppi/713 disclose the claimed invention as described above. However, they are silent as to the specifics of an exclusive and sharing mode.

Ben-Shachar/053 further shows the commonly well-known teaching of an exclusive and sharing mode [0096].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Aras/653's invention with an exclusive and sharing mode as taught by Ben-Shachar/053 since there are times when both modes are necessary.

As to claim 12, Aras/653 and Jouppi/713 disclose the claimed invention as described above. However, they are silent as to the specifics of a notification means in the arbitrator.

Ben-Shachar/053 shows the commonly well-known teaching of a notification means within a device with multiple controllers [0107].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Aras/653's invention with a notification means as taught by Ben-Shachar/053 since a controller must have a way to know when it has been given priority.

As to claim 13, Aras/653 and Jouppi/713 disclose the claimed invention as described above. However, they are silent as to the specifics of a timeout mechanism in the arbitrator.

Ben-Shachar/053 further shows the commonly well-known teaching of a timeout mechanism within a device with multiple controllers [0156].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Aras/653's invention with a timeout mechanism as taught by Ben-Shachar/053 since a controller must have a way to relinquish control in the event a malfunction renders it unresponsive.

As to claim 14, Aras/653 and Jouppi/713 disclose the claimed invention as described above. However, they are silent as to the specifics of a queue mechanism in the arbitrator.

Ben-Shachar/053 further shows the commonly well-known teaching of a queue mechanism within a device with multiple controllers [0145].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Aras/653's invention with a queue mechanism as taught by Ben-Shachar/053 since a controller must have a way to reserve its request in case another controller currently has control.

As to claim 15, Aras/653 and Jouppi/713 disclose the claimed invention as described above. However, they are silent as to the specifics of a call back mechanism in the arbitrator.

Ben-Shachar/053 further shows the commonly well-known teaching of a call back mechanism within a device with multiple controllers [0107].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Aras/653's invention with a call back mechanism as taught by Ben-Shachar/053 since a controller must have a way to know when it can take control.

As to claim 16, Aras/653 and Jouppi/713 disclose the claimed invention as described above. However, they are silent as to the specifics of a priority mechanism in the arbitrator.

Ben-Shachar/053 further shows the commonly well-known teaching of a priority mechanism within a device with multiple controllers [0054].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Aras/653's invention with a priority mechanism as taught by Ben-Shachar/053 since the system needs a way to know which controller obtains control in case more than one controller requests control simultaneously.

As to claim 18, Aras/653 and Jouppi/713 disclose the claimed invention as described above. However, they are silent as to the specifics of an exclusive and sharing mode.

Ben-Shachar/053 further shows the commonly well-known teaching of an exclusive and sharing mode [0096].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Aras/653's invention with an exclusive and sharing mode as taught by Ben-Shachar/053 since there are times when both modes are necessary.

As to claim 22, Aras/653 and Jouppi/713 disclose the claimed invention as described above. However, they are silent as to the specifics of a notification mechanism in the arbitrator.

Ben-Shachar/053 shows the commonly well-known teaching of a notification mechanism within a device with multiple controllers [0107].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Aras/653's invention with a notification mechanism as taught by Ben-Shachar/053 since a controller must have a way to know when it has been given priority.

As to claim 23, Aras/653 and Jouppi/713 disclose the claimed invention as described above. However, they are silent as to the specifics of a timeout mechanism in the arbitrator.

Ben-Shachar/053 further shows the commonly well-known teaching of a timeout mechanism within a device with multiple controllers [0156].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Aras/653's invention with a timeout mechanism as taught by Ben-Shachar/053 since a controller must have a way to relinquish control in the event a malfunction renders it unresponsive.

As to claim 24, Aras/653 and Jouppi/713 disclose the claimed invention as described above. However, they are silent as to the specifics of a queue mechanism in the arbitrator.

Ben-Shachar/053 further shows the commonly well-known teaching of a queue mechanism within a device with multiple controllers [0145].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Aras/653's invention with a queue mechanism as taught by Ben-Shachar/053 since a controller must have a way to reserve its request in case another controller currently has control.

As to claim 25, Aras/653 and Jouppi/713 disclose the claimed invention as described above. However, they are silent as to the specifics of a call back mechanism in the arbitrator.

Ben-Shachar/053 further shows the commonly well-known teaching of a call back mechanism within a device with multiple controllers [0107].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Aras/653's invention with a call back mechanism as taught by Ben-Shachar/053 since a controller must have a way to know when it can take control.

As to claim 26, Aras/653 and Jouppi/713 disclose the claimed invention as described above. However, they are silent as to the specifics of a priority mechanism in the arbitrator.

Ben-Shachar/053 further shows the commonly well-known teaching of a priority mechanism within a device with multiple controllers [0054].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Aras/653's invention with a priority mechanism as taught by Ben-Shachar/053 since the system needs a way to know which controller obtains control in case more than one controller requests control simultaneously.

As to claim 28, Aras/653 and Jouppi/713 disclose the claimed invention as described above. However, they are silent as to the specifics of an exclusive and sharing mode.

Ben-Shachar/053 further shows the commonly well-known teaching of an exclusive and sharing mode [0096].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Aras/653's invention with an exclusive and sharing mode as taught by Ben-Shachar/053 since there are times when both modes are necessary.

As to claim 32, Aras/653 and Jouppi/713 disclose the claimed invention as described above. However, they are silent as to the specifics of a notification mechanism in the arbitrator.

Ben-Shachar/053 shows the commonly well-known teaching of a notification mechanism within a device with multiple controllers [0107].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Aras/653's invention with a notification mechanism as taught by Ben-Shachar/053 since a controller must have a way to know when it has been given priority.

As to claim 33, Aras/653 and Jouppi/713 disclose the claimed invention as described above. However, they are silent as to the specifics of a timeout mechanism in the arbitrator.

Ben-Shachar/053 further shows the commonly well-known teaching of a timeout mechanism within a device with multiple controllers [0156].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Aras/653's invention with a timeout mechanism as taught by Ben-Shachar/053 since a controller must have a way to relinquish control in the event a malfunction renders it unresponsive.

As to claim 34, Aras/653 and Jouppi/713 disclose the claimed invention as described above. However, they are silent as to the specifics of a queue mechanism in the arbitrator.

Ben-Shachar/053 further shows the commonly well-known teaching of a queue mechanism within a device with multiple controllers [0145].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Aras/653's invention with a queue mechanism as taught by Ben-Shachar/053

since a controller must have a way to reserve its request in case another controller currently has control.

As to claim 35, Aras/653 and Jouppi/713 disclose the claimed invention as described above. However, they are silent as to the specifics of a call back mechanism in the arbitrator.

Ben-Shachar/053 further shows the commonly well-known teaching of a call back mechanism within a device with multiple controllers [0107].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Aras/653's invention with a call back mechanism as taught by Ben-Shachar/053 since a controller must have a way to know when it can take control.

As to claim 36, Aras/653 and Jouppi/713 disclose the claimed invention as described above. However, they are silent as to the specifics of a priority mechanism in the arbitrator.

Ben-Shachar/053 further shows the commonly well-known teaching of a priority mechanism within a device with multiple controllers [0054].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Aras/653's invention with a priority mechanism as taught by Ben-Shachar/053 since the system needs a way to know which controller obtains control in case more than one controller requests control simultaneously.

As to claim 38, Aras/653 and Jouppi/713 disclose the claimed invention as described above. However, they are silent as to the specifics of an exclusive and sharing mode.

Ben-Shachar/053 further shows the commonly well-known teaching of an exclusive and sharing mode [0096].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Aras/653's invention with an exclusive and sharing mode as taught by Ben-Shachar/053 since there are times when both modes are necessary.

As to claim 42, Aras/653 and Jouppi/713 disclose the claimed invention as described above. However, they are silent as to the specifics of a notification mechanism in the arbitrator.

Ben-Shachar/053 shows the commonly well-known teaching of a notification mechanism within a device with multiple controllers [0107].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Aras/653's invention with a notification mechanism as taught by Ben-Shachar/053 since a controller must have a way to know when it has been given priority.

As to claim 43, Aras/653 and Jouppi/713 disclose the claimed invention as described above. However, they are silent as to the specifics of a timeout mechanism in the arbitrator.

Ben-Shachar/053 further shows the commonly well-known teaching of a timeout mechanism within a device with multiple controllers [0156].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Aras/653's invention with a timeout mechanism as taught by Ben-Shachar/053 since a controller must have a way to relinquish control in the event a malfunction renders it unresponsive.

As to claim 44, Aras/653 and Jouppi/713 disclose the claimed invention as described above. However, they are silent as to the specifics of a queue mechanism in the arbitrator.

Ben-Shachar/053 further shows the commonly well-known teaching of a queue mechanism within a device with multiple controllers [0145].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Aras/653's invention with a queue mechanism as taught by Ben-Shachar/053 since a controller must have a way to reserve its request in case another controller currently has control.

As to claim 45, Aras/653 and Jouppi/713 disclose the claimed invention as described above. However, they are silent as to the specifics of a call back mechanism in the arbitrator.

Ben-Shachar/053 further shows the commonly well-known teaching of a call back mechanism within a device with multiple controllers [0107].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Aras/653's invention with a call back mechanism as taught by Ben-Shachar/053 since a controller must have a way to know when it can take control.

As to claim 46, Aras/653 and Jouppi/713 disclose the claimed invention as described above. However, they are silent as to the specifics of a priority mechanism in the arbitrator.

Ben-Shachar/053 further shows the commonly well-known teaching of a priority mechanism within a device with multiple controllers [0054].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Aras/653's invention with a priority mechanism as taught by Ben-Shachar/053 since the system needs a way to know which controller obtains control in case more than one controller requests control simultaneously.

As to claim 48, Aras/653 and Jouppi/713 disclose the claimed invention as described above. However, they are silent as to the specifics of an exclusive and sharing mode.

Ben-Shachar/053 further shows the commonly well-known teaching of an exclusive and sharing mode [0096].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Aras/653's invention with an exclusive and sharing mode as taught by Ben-Shachar/053 since there are times when both modes are necessary.

As to claim 52, Aras/653 and Jouppi/713 disclose the claimed invention as described above. However, they are silent as to the specifics of a notification mechanism in the arbitrator.

Ben-Shachar/053 shows the commonly well-known teaching of a notification mechanism within a device with multiple controllers [0107].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Aras/653's invention with a notification mechanism as taught by Ben-Shachar/053 since a controller must have a way to know when it has been given priority.

As to claim 53, Aras/653 and Jouppi/713 disclose the claimed invention as described above. However, they are silent as to the specifics of a timeout mechanism in the arbitrator.

Ben-Shachar/053 further shows the commonly well-known teaching of a timeout mechanism within a device with multiple controllers [0156].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Aras/653's invention with a timeout mechanism as taught by Ben-Shachar/053 since a controller must have a way to relinquish control in the event a malfunction renders it unresponsive.

As to claim 54, Aras/653 and Jouppi/713 disclose the claimed invention as described above. However, they are silent as to the specifics of a queue mechanism in the arbitrator.

Ben-Shachar/053 further shows the commonly well-known teaching of a queue mechanism within a device with multiple controllers [0145].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Aras/653's invention with a queue mechanism as taught by Ben-Shachar/053 since a controller must have a way to reserve its request in case another controller currently has control.

As to claim 55, Aras/653 and Jouppi/713 disclose the claimed invention as described above. However, they are silent as to the specifics of a call back mechanism in the arbitrator.

Ben-Shachar/053 further shows the commonly well-known teaching of a call back mechanism within a device with multiple controllers [0107].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Aras/653's invention with a call back mechanism as taught by Ben-Shachar/053 since a controller must have a way to know when it can take control.

As to claim 56, Aras/653 and Jouppi/713 disclose the claimed invention as described above. However, they are silent as to the specifics of a priority mechanism in the arbitrator.

Ben-Shachar/053 further shows the commonly well-known teaching of a priority mechanism within a device with multiple controllers [0054].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Aras/653's invention with a priority mechanism as taught by Ben-Shachar/053 since the system needs a way to know which controller obtains control in case more than one controller requests control simultaneously.

As to claim 58, Aras/653 and Jouppi/713 disclose the claimed invention as described above. However, they are silent as to the specifics of an exclusive and sharing mode.

Ben-Shachar/053 further shows the commonly well-known teaching of an exclusive and sharing mode [0096].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Aras/653's invention with an exclusive and sharing mode as taught by Ben-Shachar/053 since there are times when both modes are necessary.

4. Claims 7, 17, 27, 37, 47, and 57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aras/653, in view of Jouppi, further in view of Ben-Shachar/053, further in view of Zenke (6,256,556), further in view of Roy et al. ("Towards Personal Service Robots for the Elderly").

As to claim 7, 17, 27, 37, 47, and 57, Aras/653, Jouppi, and Ben-Shachar/053 disclose the claimed invention as described above. However, it is silent as to the specifics of a priority level local user or service user.

Zenke/556 shows commonly well-known remote stations given priority as a local user or a service user (col 6, line 11 - 32).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art as a matter of design choice to give priority levels local user and service user since they are commonly well-known.

However Aras/653, Jouppi, and Ben-Shachar/053 are still silent as to the specifics of priority classifications of doctor, caregiver, or family member.

Roy shows a commonly well-known robot system wherein said remote stations may be given priority as a doctor (page 1, last paragraph), caregiver (page 3, second paragraph), or family member (page 3, second Paragraph).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, as a matter of design choice to provide the teaching of Roy to Aras/653' invention since it is commonly well-known.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1- 66 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nicholas Kiswanto whose telephone number is (571) 270-3269. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8AM - 5PM, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Khoi Tran can be reached on (571) 272-6919. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Nicholas Kiswanto
May 5, 2008

/Khoi H Tran/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3664